

STAR-ROUTE CASES.

Final Breakdown of the Entire Prosecution—The
Duplicity of Cook, Gibson, James, and Mac-
Veagh Exposed—The Proceedings
a Shameful Fiasco.

Under all the circumstances, Attorney-General MacVeagh is entitled to take the stand and express his views on the existing malady.

Indeed it was easy for him in the arguments of the counsel for the Government, a counsel-assisted by the weakness of their position.—*Buffalo Herald.*

The prevalent opinion is that the prosecution has been managed in a most inefficient, halfhearted, and slovenly way.—*Washington Correspondence, Charleston Times.*

It would seem, from all the evidence adduced, that the two great reformer presses, but do not practice, and that MacVeagh is the latest and worst thorough example of this kind of a failure.—*Consent City Times.*

Without charging responsibility upon any one, though the public will have no difficulty in placing it where it belongs, there can be no question

The case chosen at first to test the possibility of bringing the star-route offenders to deserved punishment has failed. There seems to have been an error of legal judgment chargeable to the Attorney-General. The result must seem unpleasant to Mr. MacVegh. — *Rochester Express*.

appointment of the grand jury, and the necessity imposed upon the Government counsel to proceed by the "hazardous process" of information. Who is responsible for this disgraceful back down?—*Boston Herald.*

B. H. Brewster, the eminent counselor, has won new laurels, and presumably a very heavy fee in the new cases in the star-route cases. But there is a very little probability, notwithstanding, that any of the conspirators will be convicted. There is altogether too much talk.—*Norristown (Pa.) Daily Times.*

The general impression here is that the star-

more temporary embarrassment. They were forced, by peculiar circumstances beyond their control, to resort to a hazardous method of proceeding. They find their way blocked.—*Washington Dispatch Boston Herald.*

This action by the Court brings the proceedings to an end for the present and frees the defendants from any legal liability in this particular charge. The full effect of the decision cannot be judged, until the immediate result is to bring the Government's prosecution into contempt, as it has broken down at the first legal move in a manner to prejudice the whole case.—*Portland (Me.) Press.*

The government has sustained a crushing defeat in the star-ronie prosecutions. It can have been no other way. The government's case has been shattered by the statute of limitations. This will apply to the cases so far acted on. But the failure in these cases indicates a final breakdown of the entire prosecution. — *Philadelphia Evening News*.

In the matter of the star-ronie prosecutions Judge Cox yesterday decided that the proceedings by information was erroneous; that the defendants should be proceeded against by indictment, and therefore sustained the motion to strike that information from the files of the court. This ends the case against the defendants.

Had Colonel Cook and Attorney-General Macveigh desired the grand jury when the former returned from Elberon, there was no difficulty in getting it. The general impression in Washington and throughout the country is, that for some reason the Attorney-General and his special counsel have desired a failure of the prosecution, and that reason is one not creditable to them.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

There is, of course, some talk about "going right on" and getting indictments from the grand jury against the "other" party. But it is not probable. Nobody now believes that it will any longer.

The shameful fiasco in the star-route cases affords a complete justification of President Arthur's failure to appoint a new Attorney-General during the pendency of the proceedings before Judge Cowley. Either from his own knowledge as a lawyer, or upon the information of his friend, Colonel Bliss, the President realized the probable fate of the "hazardous process" resorted to, and chose not to

It is most lame and impotent conclusion of a matter on which Attorney-General MacVeagh has built up a reputation as a great reformer. If the men are guilty he has only demonstrated to the country his incompetency as a lawyer in not properly bringing his case into court. If they are not guilty, the case is a waste of time and money to the public press with the vildest of charges against them. He can now retire with unanimous consent to his original obscurity.—*Kansas City Journal*.

omission has been charged upon Corbhill, the District attorney, but that gentleman declares that Corbhill is wholly with MacVeagh, and states particularly which, if correct, fully sustains his assertion.—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.*

the servant of a cabinet minister, and it was what I had to know, and what he said, or failed to say, that interested me. Doubtless, the attacks against the star-route men were quashed yesterday: that fact will be widely known this morning. At this writing it looks as if Mr. Vengh was quashed with them, and this is of vastly more importance than the florid rhetoric of Mr. Cook, who is, no doubt, a big man, but who is not known much in a general way. If we wanted to discuss Cook as a lawyer, however, engaged to prosecute the case, we should have to go to the *Chicago* for a remarkable brilliant legal luminary.—*Inter-Ocean*.

truth as conspiracy within the meaning of the statute, there can be no successful prosecution; and that at no time have there existed sufficient reasons for believing that the Government was in any way deceived by the conspiracy. The Attorney-General and Postmaster-General, very recently Mr. MacVough has expressed the belief that whatever form the prosecution takes, conviction is highly improbable. This is the lawyers' and not the politicians' opinion, and it is shared to a considerable extent by lawyers outside of the case after becoming acquainted with the leading points. This opinion of MacVough may explain his otherwise inexplicable withdrawal. His penetration and his boldness are well known.

cases possess a certain interest, and to some extent explain what is not easy to understand. Early in this history Mr. Veagh's plan was to arrest a number of men scattered all over the country to bring them back to defend the Government. This was so early that only a small part of the evidence had been collected. It was long before Colonel Cook, on behalf of the Government, was forced to admit in open court that "there was yet no case against Brady or any one else."—*Washington correspondence New York Sun*.

who have allowed the statute of limitations to place an effectual bar against the prosecution of some of the more aggravated cases. Whether MacVeagh was legally bound to exercise this power or not, the importance of the cases in his position as the Government's chief prosecuting officer in such particular cases, should have induced him to see that nothing was left undone to insure their successful presentation to the courts. However his own conceptions of duty may excuse his apparent neglect of the people of the country, will not be satisfied without some sufficient explanation from him. It is not satisfactory to have

adjournment of the grand jury. The Government attorneys had no right to let the Government lose the advantage of proceeding in the regular way by grand jurors, and to trust to the attention of the grand jury in their power to have reconvened the grand jury, if they had ordered the summoning of another. Not to have done so, but to have trusted everything to the unusual method of proceeding by information, seems to have been gross, if not culpable, negligence.—*Hartford Courant, Senator Hussey's paper.*

It is respectfully suggested to the military editor of a Sunday paper that as there is such punishment as castling in the army, navy, or Marine Corps, the point of his editorial of Sunday, entitled "Judicious severity," is wanted.
